

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 16, 19, 22 and 24 and added new claims 26-27. Claim 25 was allowed, while new claims 26 and 27 respectively represent previous claims 19 and 23 in independent form which were stated to be allowable. Claims 17, 19 and 23 were stated to be allowable. The other remaining claims 16, 18, 21-22 and 24 were rejected on Van der Graff (4,459,066).

Applicant has amended independent claims 16, 22 and 24 to describe the "rigid seafloor riser support" or "rigid frame" as being fixed "in orientation to the sea floor". In Van der Graff, his frame that supports his lines A consists of two girders 17 (his Fig. 2) that are each connected to a foundation frame 15 on the sea floor by universal joints 16. As a result, he requires flexible coupling 5 and 6 at opposite ends of each of his lines A. Applicant does not require such multiple flexible couplings because applicant's frame is fixed in orientation to the sea floor. Accordingly, applicant believes that claims 16, 22 and 24, and dependent claims 18 and 21 should be allowed.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration of the application is courteously requested. If the Examiner should wish to discuss the application, he is invited to call Leon D. Rosen at (310)477-0578.

Respectfully submitted,



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